UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 6
1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200
DALLAS TX 75202-2733

SEP 25 2013

Mr. James Hogan, Chief
Surface Water Quality Bureau
P.O. Box 5469
Santa Fe, NM 87502

RE: Approval of the *Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for the Upper Pecos River Watershed [Santa Rosa Reservoir To Headwaters]*

Dear Mr. Hogan:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency received the New Mexico Surface Water Quality Bureau's request for EPA review and approval of the final document entitled *Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for the Upper Pecos River Watershed [Santa Rosa Reservoir To Headwaters]* (henceforth, 'Final Report'). The Final Report includes TMDLs for *Escherichia coli* and specific conductance.

Based on our review, we conclude that the TMDLs contained in the Final Report meet the requirements found in Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act and the implementing regulations found at 40 CFR § 130.7. The EPA is pleased to approve the TMDLs contained in the Final Report as summarized in the enclosed table. The EPA also acknowledges that these TMDLs will be incorporated as updates to the State of New Mexico Water Quality Management Plan.

During review of the Final Report, EPA noted two TMDL calculation errors. After discussions with NMED, NMED determined that the load allocations (LAs) for Pecos River (Santa Rosa Reservoir to Tecolote Creek) and Pecos Arroyo (Gallinas to Headwaters) were recorded incorrectly. The enclosed table provides the corrected LA for each river segment. EPA understands that the final EPA-approved document will be revised to reflect the correct LAs.

We appreciate the opportunity to work closely with SWQB, and we commend you and your staff for the considerable effort that went into developing these TMDLs. If you would like to discuss these approvals, please contact me at (214) 665-7101 or Ms. Katrina Higgins-Coltrain of my staff at (214) 665-8143.

Sincerely,

William K. Honker, P.E.
Director
Water Quality Protection Division

Enclosure

CC: Heidi Henderson, New Mexico Environment Department,
Surface Water Quality Bureau
Meghan Bell, New Mexico Environment Department,
Surface Water Quality Bureau

Enclosure: Summary of the total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) for the Upper Pecos River Watershed [Santa Rosa Reservoir to Headwaters]

Pollutant	Target Concentration	WLA Permits	LA	MOS	TMDL	Units
Pecos River (Santa Rosa Reservoir to Tecolote Creek): Segment 20.6.4.211, Assessment Unit NM-2211.A_10						
Escherichia coli	126 cfu/100mL (geometric mean)	0	2.34E+10[a]	1.23E+09	2.46E+10	cfu/day
Dalton Canyon Creek (Pecos River to Headwaters): Segment 20.6.4.217, Assessment Unit NM-2214.A_070						
Specific Conductance	300 µS/cm TDS Surrogate	0	327.7	57.83	385.6	lbs/day
Falls Creek (Tecolote to Headwaters): Segment 20.6.4.215, Assessment Unit NM-2212_12						
Specific Conductance	300 µS/cm TDS Surrogate	0	88.9	15.69	104.6	lbs/day
Macho Canyon Creek (Pecos River to Headwaters): Segment 20.6.4.217, Assessment Unit NM-2214.A_071						
Specific Conductance	300 µS/cm TDS Surrogate	0	418.8	73.91	492.7	lbs/day
Pecos Arroyo (Gallinas to Headwaters): Segment 20.6.4.221, Assessment Unit NM-2213_22						
Escherichia coli	126 cfu/100mL (geometric mean)	0	5.2E+08[a]	2.73E+07	5.47E+08	cfu/day
El Rito (Pecos River to Headwaters): Segment 20.6.4.212, Assessment Unit NM-9000.A_050						
Escherichia coli	126 cfu/100mL (geometric mean)	NM0024988 - Santa Rosa WWTP 3.2E+09	6.69E+07	1.72E+08	3.44E+09	cfu/day
Willow Creek (Pecos River to Headwaters): Segment 20.6.4.217, Assessment Unit NM-2214.A_030						
Specific Conductance	300 µS/cm TDS Surrogate	0	2194	387.2	2581	lbs/day

Source: Final *Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for the Upper Pecos River Watershed [Santa Rosa Reservoir to Headwaters]*

[a] These LAs were recorded incorrectly in the final draft and have been revised here. The final EPA-approved document will be revised to reflect the correct LAs.